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Information for Social Change

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Editorial

This issue is published to coincide with the first ISC/LINK joint conference 'Better read than dead: libraries in Cuba, China, North Korea and Vietnam', held in at VSO HQ, London on 16th March, 1996. Two papers from this conference, on Cuba and North Korea are published here as part of the proceedings. The remaining papers will be published in a future issue of LINK's journal *LINK-UP* (64 Ennersdale Road, London SE13 5JD).

The international theme is continued by a pair of articles on Poland, and information on radical library organisations in Germany and Austria. The burgeoning field of zines creates its own problems for established library acquisitions policies and these are addressed from a U.S. perspective by a prime mover in this area. Closer to home, our Sheffield correspondent offers a radical proposal for the re-invention of our public libraries.

The eagle-eyed amongst you will note that the production values of this issue are a little lower than were previously the case. This is because we are broke; worse, we are in debt. We hope that all subscribers who see a cross in that little box below will resubscribe quickly. If you are reading us for the first time, then do consider subscribing if you want to read us again. If you can help us with an institutional subscription, even better; a few more of those would be of immense value.

This issue of *Information for Social Change* was put together by Martyn Lowe, Jon Pateman and Chris Atton.

Information for Social Change is published twice a year. Individual subscription for one year is £5.00. Institutions: £15.00. Free to exchanging journals. Enquire for overseas rates. Make cheques payable to 'Information for Social Change.' If you are interested in writing for the journal, contact us with proposals. Submissions will fare best if sent on disc, in either Word 2.0, Word 6.0 or Wordperfect 5.2.

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In Cuba They're Still Reading

John Pateman

Education and Literacy

In spite of over 30 years of being blockaded, literacy in Cuba has gone up from 1.9 per cent before the Revolution to 98 per cent. In nearby Haiti 80 per cent of the population are illiterate. As Kenia Serrano Puig, the Cuban Students Leader, said on her visit to the UK in October 1995 : "One of the major successes of the Cuban revolution has been free education for all. Despite constant US economic aggression, not one school, college or university has closed in Cuba."

Day care centres started up in the '60s to meet the pressing need to care for the children of working women, whose number was rapidly rising. Today there are more than a thousand such centres, with a capacity of more than 125,000 children under five years of age. The most recently built are found in the capital, where there are 405 altogether. Children may be placed in these centres as early as 45 days old. The cost of enrolment ranges from 5 - 8% of the parents income. For the children leaving these centres to begin elementary school, thousands of schools exist, even in isolated rural areas. A scholarship programme also helps maintain partial boarding schools, which like all schools, are free of charge.

Universal education is from 5 to 18 years old. Children attend kindergarten for one year. Primary education is from 6 - 11/12 ; secondary education is from 11/12 - 15 ; tertiary education is from 15 - 18. The Friedrich Engels School for 15-18 year olds in Pinar de Rio, inaugurated in 1978, is a typical "Institute for Exact Sciences" (Maths, Science and Electronics). It has 2,000 pupils of whom 450 per year study Maths, History, Geography, English, Spanish, Computing and go on to university. This residential school is linked to technical schools for special subjects and has a large area of land on which the students grow their own food - vegetables, fruit, rice, cattle and pigs. They clean the school themselves. The school has strong links with the local community - staff, parents and community representatives all sit on the governing body.

Before the triumph of the revolution there was only one University, in Havana. When Batista took over the country by coup in 1952, the university students were the first to confront him.

University education is from 18 - 23, and optional delayed entrance is available for workers. There are main universities in each province (E.g. Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Santa Clara, Camaguey and Pinar del Rio). Some 150,000 Cubans will be enrolled in universities during the 1995/96 academic year, in day, home study and workers' courses.

Over 19,000 of them are newly enrolled students. There are too many graduates (there are six universities in Pinar del Rio Province alone) and Cuba now wants to concentrate on technical education. There are also many language schools in Cuba, specialising in French, German and Italian (English is the second language) as well as colleges and schools of art and music.

Publishing

Up until 1989, Cuban libraries were well stocked via a flourishing internal publishing industry. The Ministry of Culture has nine publishing houses : People and Education ; Social Sciences ; Scientific-Technical ; Art and Literature ; Cuban Letters ; New People ; Oriente and Jose Marti (all of which belong to the Cuban Book Institute) and the Casa de las Americas publishing house. There are, however, other publishing houses such as the Communist Party's Political Publishing, the Union of Young Communists April Publishing and the Union of Writers and Artists publishing department. Taken together, they comprise a group of specialised entities whose production in 1987 accounted for 90% of the titles published and 99% of all the books and booklets printed in Cuba.

In 1987 the publishing picture was as follows :

2,315 titles (1959 : 507) including 1,961 books ; 53% for education

41,934,000 copies including 37,830,200 books ; 47% for education

18,114 copies per average edition

22.4 titles per 100,000 inhabitants (1959 : 7.3)

4,049 copies per 1,000 inhabitants (1959 : 145)

Between 1980 and 1987 over 800 titles were published in foreign languages - a total of 28.2 million copies. Titles published between 1980 and 1987 according to topic (in percent) :

General : 10.3

Pure Sciences : 5.25

Philosophy/psychology : 1.1

Applied sciences : 18.1

Religion/theology : 0.05

Arts : 4.5

Social sciences : 36.8

Literature : 16.0

Philology : 0.67

Geography/History : 3.9

Since the collapse of the former Soviet Union and socialist countries in Eastern Europe, Cuba has had to cut back drastically on the number of books it can publish. Compared to the 2,500 titles (55 million copies) published in the 1970's and 1980's, Cuba only managed to publish 300 titles in 1994 (not including school textbooks) because of shortages of paper, fuel and funding. The situation is a little better in 1995 with 450 titles planned. As a

result, in Cuban libraries and schools there are few new books and a shortage of paper and pencils and pens - the most elementary materials. The disappearance of children's publications due to paper shortages has serious implications for the cultural, aesthetic and ideological development of children and youth.

Casa de Cultura

Article 80 of Cuba's Code on Children and Youth (Cuban Law No.16) expresses the belief that "Art and Literature are the appropriate means for developing the creative personality of children and young people, enriching their lives and forming an inseparable part of their spiritual aspirations and needs."

Provision for children to develop their aesthetic sensibilities has been provided by the state in a number of ways. Mariposa, an exhibition of Cuban children's paintings which was held at CLR James library during Black History Month in October 1995, is a vivid illustration of how it is provided by the Casa de Cultura (House of Culture). The pictures were produced after school hours by children between the ages of six and fourteen years in Casas all over the island.

Casas play an important role in the spiritual life of the community. They provide a mixture of cultural and recreational activities which include theatre, dance, music, fine arts, creative writing, circus and cinema. They are sponsored by government agencies and mass organisations and have grown from 33 in 1975 to over 250.

No Cuban child is without access to a Casa for they are everywhere, from the capital Havana to the smallest community high in the Sierra mountains. Some are new and purpose-built, while others are converted Spanish colonial palaces. At present there are more than 230,000 members under the guidance of more than 2,800 art instructors, plus a large number of activists. Staff and premises are more easily come by than art materials : economic blockades have for years made their importation impossible, but improvisation is a highly developed talent.

Their pictures, often painted on old cardboard boxes, blaze with colour and vitality. Landscapes with houses, seascapes with boats, games and outings, friends and relations, clowns and circuses, animals and flowers - their themes are those of children the world over. Occasionally the concern of children living on an island close to a powerful and hostile neighbour is revealed in a title like "No to war !" or "Defending the Peace".

A major influence in the rich provision for creative expression has been Dr Rafaela Chacon Nardi, poet and educator. Her studies of children's pictures in a revolutionary society, and art as therapy for children with severe disabilities, have won her project, Grupo Expresion Creadora, the support of UNESCO. The children involved in the project have seen their work exhibited in many countries where they have won major prizes.

Periodicals and newspapers

The official newspaper "Granma" is published daily, except Sundays, and an international version is published weekly in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and German. Members of the Newspaper Bureau of the Paris Book Union printed 100,000 copies of the French edition of "Granma International" and distributed it at the L'Humanite Festival held in Paris in September 1995. This is the largest foreign printing of a Cuban publication ever. It is part of a campaign by the Parisien newspaper workers who have sent two major shipments of paper, ink, film, and chemicals necessary for the Cuban press. Their General Secretary, Roland Bingler, said :

"With the printing of Granma International in Paris, the newspaper workers in Paris are also helping to break the information blockade maintained by the international press, which only publishes untruths and defamation and denies the world the possibility of learning that in spite of the current difficulties, the Revolution guaranteed a teacher and classroom to every Cuban child this school year."

The other daily newspaper is "Trabajadores", published by the trades unions. Each region publishes its own paper such as the capital's "Tribuna de la Habana". Due to a lack of paper, ink, chemicals and other resources, the 1.5 million print run of periodicals in 1989 was reduced to 430,000 in 1993. Dailies that were publishing 456 pages a week now only have 82. In 1989 there were 584 Cuban journals with a total run of 82.7 million copies. The only one that survives today is "Bohemia" magazine, whose run has been cut by two thirds and which has suffered a drastic reduction in its number of pages.

Awards

Despite the economic problems Cuba continues to organise a number of literary awards (National literature award ; "Mirta Aguirre" national award for literary criticism ; UNEAC award ; "Alejo Carpentier" award ; Casa de las Americas literary awards) and contests ("Golden Age" contest ; "Anniversary of the Revolution" contest ; "July 26" contest) as well as hosting the biannual Havana Book Fair and Show.

Bookshops

Books are sold to the population through a network of 326 bookshops. Every town has a bookshop with political texts by Marx, Lenin, Castro and Guevara, a good selection of Latin American fiction in Spanish, and foreign language books in Russian and English. In 1987 sales totalled 10.6 million pesos - a 46% increase over 1980. Children's books are quite attractive and books bought for pesos are ridiculously cheap : a paperback novel might cost the equivalent of just 2p. Some bookshops also sell records.

Libraries

Cuba has a very impressive library infrastructure. Since the Revolution in 1959 many public, academic and special libraries have been developed at local, provincial and national level.

Cuba has over 4,000 libraries, 328 of them public (1959 : 32). They possess over 7 million titles, nearly 6 million of them books (1959 : 675,000). Seventy three art shows were held in public libraries attended by 25,000 visitors in 1987.

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Bookshops</u>	<u>Public libraries</u>
Pinar del Rio	18	21
Havana	26	31
Havana City	52	23
Matanzas	31	37
Villa Clara	24	49
Cienfuegos	16	17
Sancti Spiritus	12	16
Ciego de Avila	13	14
Camaguey	23	25
Las Tunas	13	11
Holguin	29	29
Granma	20	22
Santiago de Cuba	32	27
Guantanamo	13	5
Isle of Youth	4	1
TOTAL	326	328

In August 1993 I went on a study tour to Cuba. This included a visit to the Biblioteca Municipal Vinales in Pinar del Rio. Vinales is a small town with simple whitewashed houses ranked along the main streets recalling its colonial origins. Outside the low single-storied library building with red tiles on its roof, there was an impressive programme of events to be held which indicated its use as a community centre. There was an adult section with issue desk, periodicals section, study area, exhibition space and new books display. There were also children's and reference sections.

In 1993 I also visited the Biblioteca Nacional Jose Marti in Havana, and the Biblioteca Provincial "Marti" in Santa Clara. It was clear to me that the the libraries were well stocked with books but few new titles had been added to the shelves since 1989. One of the effects of the US blockade has been the breaking off or great weakening of many contacts in the fields of culture, literature, school and university studies and the absence of any funds to import books, films and music.

All of the Cuban libraries I have visited had Braille sections which include works such as "The Golden Age", Jose Marti's collection of children's stories. These books are printed in special workshops where the machines are designed to be run by blind and visually impaired workers. Also printed there in Braille is "History Will Absolve Me", Fidel Castro's defence plea at his trial following the 1953 attack on Santiago de Cuba's Moncada Garrison, dictator Batista's second largest military camp in the country. In Cuba there are no illiterate blind people and there are eleven special schools for blind children and teenagers on the island.

Speaking at the 1994 IFLA conference in Havana, the President Robert Wedgeworth said he had been impressed by the way literacy had been brought directly into the work place, with the introduction of libraries into factories and sugar mills. He described the "donkey librarian" working in an inaccessible mountain area who used imaginative and practical means, the humble donkey, to transport books and other materials to the remote community.

An unusual service is offered in Cuban libraries through the "child-mothers" project. Cuban teenage mothers and their children are actively encouraged to read, both generations being helped at the same time. Libraries take a lead role in providing health-care and other information to these youngsters. Children work with computers at the Los Joven Club de Computacion, a country-wide organisation promoting computer literacy to children and young adults.

Museums

In 1959 there were just seven museums with only 2,500 visitors. Today there are 231 visited more than nine million times a year. Some of the loveliest old colonial houses and palaces have been converted into museums for the masses. This piece of social policy works very well, letting locals and visitors enjoy the finest buildings in Cuba. There are museums to cover local and national history as well as those devoted to aspects of Cuban life such as music, ceremonies or pharmaceuticals. Admission to most museums is free.

In 1995 I visited the Museum of the Revolution in Havana which is housed in Batista's presidential palace. The exhibits explain the historical context for the revolution and aspects of the revolution itself with well displayed artefacts, photographs and charts. There are blood spattered shirts, Che's beret and one of Fidel's coats. There is a "Corner of the Cretins" featuring Reagan, Bush and Batista. In 1993 I went to the Bay of Pigs Museum which tells the story of the ill conceived CIA operation to land a force of Cuban exiles at Playa Giron in 1961.

Culture

Cuba has a huge number of cultural institutes, many of which sustain a full programme of events. I went to the Casa de las Americas in Havana which was founded by Che Guevara

as a centre for the provision of Latin American Art and Literature. Events include readings, exhibitions and music. The Cuban Book Institute hosts launches and meetings with authors. There is also a Union of Writers and Artists. These include Nicolas Guillen, the national poet, whose verse is dark and fascinating, owing more to African than Spanish tradition ; Cirilo Villaverde (1812-1894), the pioneer of the Cuban novel ; and Alejo Carpentier, a Cuban novelist of world wide reputation.

Foreign writers have also found inspiration in Cuba : Ernest Hemingway lived, wrote and drank heavily in Havana and produced classics such as the Nobel Prize winning novel "The Old Man and the Sea", set in the coastal village of Cojimar ; "To Have and Have Not" featuring the vintage Hemingway hero Harry Morgan ; "Islands in the Stream", his posthumous masterpiece ; and "By-line" a collection of articles and dispatches over four decades. Graham Greene stayed in the Hotel Inglaterra in the Cuban capital and his "Our Man in Havana" is both a charming read and a good picture of life in the city before the revolution.

Cuba possesses an extraordinary musical wealth that is deeply rooted in popular tradition. Everywhere you go in Cuba there is music played live and free, from a Spanish serenade at your dinner table, to the throbbing rhythm of Afro-Cuban drums. Cinema is also very popular and the Cuban film industry has won over 350 international awards. Cuba has 154 art galleries (compared to 9 in 1959) and 42 theatres. The National Ballet of Cuba is reckoned to be one of the best in the world.

Conclusion

Since the Triumph of the Revolution in 1959, the importance of the cultural heritage of Cuba has been recognised in the Constitution and the Programme of the Communist Party of Cuba which states : "The central guideline of the various aspects of cultural policy is that the fruits of artistic creation will in reality belong to the people, who will participate in many ways in the creative process."

This has been reflected in the fields of museums, music, cinema, pictorial arts, performing arts, arts education, the amateur movement and the Houses of Culture. Cuba has a flourishing Union of Writers and Artists and a Cuban Book Institute. These cultural achievements have been paralleled in health care with an infant mortality of less than 10 per 1,000 live births and a life expectancy of 75. This is better than some developed countries and far exceeds any other developing country (E.g. in Haiti the infant mortality rate is 250 per 1,000 live births). The family doctor programme has put doctors in every neighbourhood, factory and school.

Despite severe economic difficulties Cuba has protected the Fruits of the Revolution and stayed true to the ideals of Socialism. As Fidel Castro has said : "Socialism's reason for being is to enhance human abilities and possibilities to the utmost and to enhance as well, to the highest degree, the freedom of creation not only in form but also in content." In

many different ways Cuba is living up to the aspirations of Jose Marti who said "I want the first law of our republic to be the Cuban's devotion to complete human dignity".

Scientific and technical information activities in the Democratic People's Republic Of Korea

Li Rong Yip

Scientific and technical activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea began in August 1945, when the country was liberated from the yoke of Japanese imperialist colonial rule. Before Liberation the country was backward, colonial and semifeudal. At that time there were no higher education establishments, or scientific and research institutions and few technical personnel. However, under the leadership of President Kim II Sung since Liberation, the economy, science and technology in the country has developed rapidly.

Education work amongst the people became a basis for social development, so that the Government of the Republic, even under difficult conditions of the country, put cadre training work ahead of all the work and made great strides. Thus, immediately after Liberation, Kim II Sung University was founded and following it, many research institutes and educational establishments at all levels were set up. From 1975 universal 11-year compulsory education was enforced. The Government established scientific and research institutions in various fields of national economy, taking account of the current and prospective requirements of national economy and scientific and technical development.

During the grim Fatherland Liberation war, in order to realize the far reaching plan for further development of science and technology in the country, President Kim II Sung founded the Academy of Science in December, 1952. He charged it with guiding all aspects of science and research work and the work of introducing advanced science and technology into the national economy. Through such a course of development, the country under the leadership of the Party and Government has set up more than 260 universities and institutes. There are nearly 1.5 million intellectuals with graduate qualifications.

The rapid development of the economy, the establishment of many scientific, technical and educational institutions, and the training of scientific personnel on this scale required a network of libraries which could provide scientists and working people with more books

and scientific and technical materials. Thus, today there are more than 15,000 libraries and book rooms in the country.

On the other hand the country was converting into an industrial state based upon an independent national economy. Such a situation and the rapid development of the national economy, and science and technology required the shifting of scientific and technical information activities into a higher gear.

In the first period after Liberation, scientific and technical information activities in the country were conducted separately in the universities and institutes and in libraries at factories and enterprises.

During the war the scientific and technical information activities in the country were conducted mainly for the final victory of the war and rehabilitation and development of national economy after Liberation. After the war, according to the Party's policy for economic construction, scientific and technical information activities were conducted to help solving scientific and technical problems arising from the realization of the historic task in industrializing the country, holding fast to the Juche stand.

At the scientists' and technicians' congress held in March, 1963, the President Kim II Sung set forth the detailed tasks for technical revolution. He provided the scientists and technicians with satisfactory conditions for research and the necessary scientific and technical documents. The Information Agency under the Academy of Sciences was organised in August, 1963. Thus, scientific and technical information activities conducted separately in the past were more actively organized on a wide scale under a unified system.

In July, 1965, as the national economy developed more rapidly and the technical revolution was carried out successfully, the Information Agency under the Academy of Sciences was reorganized into the Central Scientific and Technical Information Institute. This was done in order to strengthen and develop scientific and technical information work. The well organised scientific and technical information system was set up from the centre down to the lowest unit.

The State system for scientific and technical information

The State system for the scientific and technical information of the country involves 800-professional information organs at three levels: the Central Scientific and Technical Information Institute; central scientific and technical information organs in the fields of national economy; and scientific and technical information units.

The Central Scientific and Technical Information Institute (CSTII)

CSTII, a pivotal information organ of the country in various forms and by various methods provides the scientists, technicians and specialists with the information materials from home and abroad needed urgently to boost the national economy and the development of science and technology.

Nowadays, the information services of CSTII are as follows:

- I. To collect information materials from home and abroad.

These include over 5,000 kinds of domestic and foreign scientific and technical periodicals.

- II. To offer information services by various methods including the secondary publication of information.

The subject index cards being stored and used CSTII for 10 years number 2.5 millions. CSTII publishes scientific and technical documents, including "Foreign Document Indexes", "Abstracts for Science and Technology", "Bulletin for New Technology", "Bulletin for Foreign Service and Technology", "Friends", "Reviews", "Technical Innovations" and "Science World". CSTII also publishes several hundred kinds of information bulletins and offers SDI reference services by question, copy and translation services.

- III. To provide information services to leading functionaries by analysing, synthesizing and publishing world scientific and technical development trends and technical economic indexes.
- IV. To offer the methodology for unifying information work and for improving its services while strengthening the close co-operation with information organs at all levels in developing the state system for scientific and technical innovation.
- V. CSTII has been active recently in carrying out the task for establishing and developing automatic information retrieval systems by computer and building up on line retrieval services on the basis of creating national database and information network. CSTII has already established an automatic retrieval system by microcomputer and has solved the input and output problems of Korean, English, Russian and Japanese languages. As a result we have established the technical foundation for building a national database. CSTII as a centre of data exchange is actively providing services by remote access to the data bases of international organizations in other countries, using satellites.

- VI. CSTII has also established a microfiche service. CSTII has stored up several tens of thousands of microfiches related to scientific and technical materials and is actively providing services to information requesters.
- VII. To promote science and technical propaganda by various forms and methods such as science films, TV, video, exhibitions and mass lectures.
- VIII. To train information workers at home and through the co-operation with international organizations and foreign countries.
- IX. To extend the exchange of information of publications and scientific and technical materials. To introduce advanced experiences in the improvement of scientific and technical information work and its modernization through international co-operation in the field of scientific and technical information. Now CSTII has been a member of FID, INFOTERRA and other international organizations for scientific and technical information and has concluded bilateral agreements with many countries including China.

Central scientific and technical information organs in the fields of national economy.

These are organized in central organs including the commissions and ministries of the Council Administration and the central scientific research organs such as the Academy of Sciences and the academies of branch sciences.

These information organs conduct their information activities in various forms and methods by building up information bases in their areas and by analyzing and synthesizing the materials needed for the fields concerned.

In particular, they conduct information activities for synthesizing and generalizing new scientific and technical and production achievements on the basis of grasping the reality of the scientific research and technical development of their factories, enterprises, research institutions and design organizations.

Scientific technical information units

These units provide the technicians concerned with the materials helpful for the solution of technical innovation problems and research themes arising in their organs and enterprises.

In connection with this, they build up their own document base and organize the work for effectively using the various scientific and technical information handed down from higher

organs. In addition they inform the higher units of the successes achieved in their organizations and enterprises.

Service Activities in Libraries

Before Liberation there were only seven libraries in the country. Now there is the Grand People's Study House in the centre and the well-organized State library-system at the provincial, city and county levels in the country.

At the end of 1947, two years after Liberation, the number of libraries increased to 102 and book rooms to 1253. Nowadays, libraries and book rooms total over 15,000. Libraries at all levels are well-located in regions and in branches of the national economy throughout the country. In the centre of the capital there is the Grand People's Study House and in the seats of provincial, city and county governments and in workers districts, there are regional libraries and students and pupils' libraries. Reading rooms for newspapers and books are everywhere. There are libraries for science research university libraries, factory and enterprise libraries and country-side libraries.

The Grand People's Study House is not an ordinary library but a central base for the intellectualization of the whole society. It is a correspondence university for the working people and a scientific and educational establishment. The Grand People's Study has a floor space of a hundred thousand square metres. It has a capacity for 30 million books and can seat over 5,000 people. This House has 15 reading rooms, 14 lecture rooms, 13 record lecture rooms, 5 question and answer rooms, information rooms etc. - in all more than 600 rooms, including a big lecture room with over 800 seats. Among its 1,000 employees there are 400 librarians, 200 translators and over 200 lecturers including persons with academic degrees. In addition to this, there are several hundreds of part-time lecturers.

Aside from providing books to read, the House conducts education in various forms and methods such as scientific and technological lectures, information courses in various fields, including social sciences. The House organizes the provision of materials for new techniques and for the science and technology necessary in building a national economy. It also organizes tape-recorded lectures or video lectures, foreign language courses and even conducts musical lectures or courses.

Therefore, the Grand People's Study House is not merely a library which loans reading books or materials, but a correspondence course university, scientific and educational institution and a central base for intellectualization of the whole society. It helps the working people including scientists, technicians and specialists to enhance their level of

knowledge, and solves the knotty problems in scientific research work and informs the people about development trends in world science and technology.

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Alternatives in Poland

Martyn Lowe

I. The Clandestine Press in Poland

Introduction

There were two periods of non-violent resistance in Poland : during the Nazi occupation of World War Two ; and during the period of Martial Law in the 1980s. There are many myths about World War Two, particularly when it comes to the question of non-violent civilian defence. Yet throughout Europe during the Nazi occupation some circa 9,000 clandestine newspapers were produced. The figures are both impressive and a testament to the efforts that ordinary people will make to resist evil. The statistics are truly amazing when you take into account the number of clandestine newspapers that were produced within individual countries during that period. In Belgium, Norway, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Czechoslovakia and all Nazi-occupied countries, the clandestine press flourished.

So what has this to do with Radical Librarianship and information workers ? Plenty, I would argue, because the clandestine press in Europe shows just what can be done by those of us who work with information in both opposing oppression and in making social change. Perhaps I should start by explaining that that the last book in English that covered this subject was published in 1943 : Brome, Vincent, *Europe's Free Press - The underground newspapers of occupied lands described as far as the censor permits*, Feature Books, London.

I started my research on this subject over a decade ago and I calculate that it might well take me another decade to complete. My research has taken me to many archives throughout Europe and I have corresponded with many others. This article is just a taster of the results of my research. I hope to be able to write more

upon the subject within future issues of this periodical.

It has never been my intention to complete a definitive account of the clandestine press in Europe during the Nazi occupation. I have only set out to produce an introduction to the subject and to the various sources of information that exist. I also indicate where more research upon the subject might be carried out. In other words, my study is an introduction to the archives, bibliographies and facts which I have discovered to date. I hope that this work will be of use to the reader and that anyone who might have any additional information will contact me via the editorial address.

Nazi-Occupied Poland

When people think about the Nazi occupation of Poland they tend to remember the Warsaw Ghetto, Auschwitz (Oswiecim in Polish), the Warsaw Uprising and the tragic subjugation of the people. Yet there is a different story as to what went on in Poland during this period. A story that is well documented, but little known. A story of resistance and imaginative action.

The Poles established an underground state with its own courts and its own educational system. Some 9,000 people went through underground institutes of higher education in Warsaw alone, while universities operated clandestinely throughout the country. In 2,000 underground secondary schools, circa 65,000 children received education. Soup kitchens and relief centres operated openly.

Clandestine publishing was a widespread and successful resistance activity. In Warsaw 18 clandestine newspapers were established in 1939 ; by 1944 this number had risen to 166. Altogether some 1,400 clandestine titles were produced throughout Poland under the occupation. During the Warsaw Uprising, the clandestine press played an important role in spreading news and information to the population. At that time, there were approximately 130 clandestine daily newspapers with print-runs that varied between 1,000 and 28,000 copies. Within the Warsaw Ghetto alone there existed 46 different titles.

Titles of clandestine newspapers included : **Glospolski** (Voice of Poland) , **Warts** (The Watch), **Sprawa** (The Cause), **Insurekcja** (Insurrection), **Robotnik Waice** (Workers struggle), **Ajencja Prasowa** (Press Agency), and **Radio Londyn** (Radio London). There were also Byelorussian, Jewish and Ukrainian publications. On one occasion, a fake version of the official Nazi newspaper was produced, which contained uncensored news.

Clandestine publishing was not restricted to newspapers. Pamphlets and books were also produced. One example of these was **The Squadron 303** by Arkady Fiedler, which had a print-run of 4,000 copies. This was an account of the Battle of Britain. Although most of these clandestine newspapers were duplicated, some were also produced upon letter - press machines.

One of the most successful clandestine publishing activities of the Polish resistance was conducted by the Bureau of Political Information attached to the resistance organisation ZWZ. This project, known as "Action N", produced leaflets, newspapers, and pamphlets which appeared to originate in Germany, but which in fact were published in Poland. These publications were distributed throughout Germany by a network of agents, consisting mainly of railway workers, who left the literature in public places or posted it to individuals.

This ploy led the Gestapo to believe that dissident activity in Germany was much more widespread than was actually the case. Indeed, the Gestapo became convinced that some of the leaflets had originated in Munich, presumably from the White Rose Group. (It should be noted that the White Rose Group were distributing leaflets against the war, but the story of clandestine publishing in Germany is one that I shall return to in another article]

"Action N" publications helped to spread discontent within the German Army. The distribution of such works was a dangerous activity, and some of the railway workers who were involved in this work lost their lives as a result.

Poland During Martial Law

The period of Martial Law in Poland during the 1980s saw an upsurge in clandestine publishing. As during the Nazi occupation, those who engaged upon such activities ran high risks, not so much to their lives, but to their freedom. As within the previous period, it was the

humble duplicator upon which much of the clandestine press was produced.

The period of Martial Law lasted from December 1981 until December 1988. During that period many clandestine pamphlets, newspapers and books were published. According to the periodical **Voice of Solidarity**, by October 1986 the organisation "Solidarnosc" (Solidarity) had alone published some 920 newspapers.

What is really fascinating about the clandestine publishing which took place under Martial Law, is the way in which these works were produced. For example, one method of manufacturing ink involved mixing soot and washing up detergent. One can only speculate about the conservation problems that these works will present, especially as most were printed on paper which was very far from acid free.

Archives and Museums

Any visitor to Poland will find that they cannot go far without seeing memorials to the fallen of World War Two. The centre of Warsaw was flattened during the Uprising and rebuilt to match the old architecture. Many of the postcards in Warsaw show areas destroyed during the Uprising and how they look today. Warsaw has many monuments including : The Ghetto Heroes Monument ; The Monument of the Young Insurgent (a child soldier - whose helmet dwarfs it's head - holding an automatic rifle) ; and the monument which commemorates the Uprising itself. During 1994 (the 50th anniversary of the Uprising), Polish

telecom even produced commemorative phone cards.

Anyone who is interested in the history of the occupation should visit the Historical Museum of Warsaw, which is situated in Rynek Starego Miasta, the central square of the old town. Here one will find not only an exhibition on the history of the city, but several rooms which illustrate the occupation and Uprising. Many of the clandestine newspapers that were produced at this time are on display.

The Warsaw Ghetto

There are many images of the Warsaw Ghetto - from the sentimental to the tragic - yet there were events going on within the Ghetto which deserve our attention. These events are chronicled by the Jewish Historical Institute. Within this Institute's museum and library the history of Polish Jewry is both researched and displayed. When I visited the museum in February 1995 there was an exhibition about the history and daily life within the Warsaw Ghetto.

On display were some of the clandestine newspapers that were produced within the Ghetto. The titles of these are worth noting. They include : **Morgan Frajhait** (Morning Freedom), the journal of the Workers and Peasants Organisation in the Warsaw Ghetto ; **Yugnt Shtyme** (Voice of the Young), the journal of the Bund in the Warsaw Ghetto ; **Proletarisher Gedank** (Proletarian Thoughts). There is also a copy of **An Appeal** by Zotia Kossak, published in 1944.

The Jewish History Institute holds the archives of several underground organisations including The Jewish National Committee (Z K N) and the Bund of the Jewish Fighting Organisation. The most interesting holding is that which was collected by Dr Emanuel Ringelblum, who gathered a group of people around him and created a secret archive of daily life in the Warsaw Ghetto. The story of the Ringelblum Archive is an inspirational story of how to secretly collect and archive clandestine material. With the destruction of the Ghetto this archive was hidden and only came to light after World War Two.

The National Library in Warsaw

The Polish National Library has its origins in the year 1747, with the founding of the Zaluski Library. Following the unsuccessful uprising of 1794, the Zaluski Library was seized by the Tsarist occupiers and transported back to St Petersburg. The Polish National Library (Biblioteka Narodowa) was officially established in 1928. The history of the Library is very interesting as it reflects the history of the country itself.

Between 1940 - 1944 staff at the National Library were engaged in underground activities which included organising secret schools, preserving book collections endangered by confiscation or destruction, and making available books on military science to aid the armed fight against the Nazis. Other activities included acquisition of underground publications, registration of harms and losses incurred by Polish

libraries, and registration of collections carried away by the occupiers.

After the Warsaw Uprising in October 1944, Nazi troops set fire to the library and most of its rare books, maps and music collection were destroyed. Worse was to follow. Following a partial evacuation of 150,000 volumes in November 1944, yet more books were destroyed. Following the years of occupation, librarians began work within the National Library on January 18th 1945.

After the horrendous destruction of the national heritage that had taken place during World War Two, it was felt that in case such a calamity befell the nation again, the Library should place its - and other Polish library book treasures - on microfilm. This project was started in 1950. It now consists of over 140,000 items, which include more than 900 World War Two Resistance prints.

There are a number of books about the clandestine press which have been produced by the Polish National Library : Cieslakiewicz, J, Falkowska, H, and Paczkowski, A ; **Polska Prasa Konspiracyjna 1939 - 1945** (Polish Press Conspiracy 1939 - 1945). This is a catalogue of holdings in the National Library, published in 1984.

Grabski, Witold ; **Prasa Powstania Warszawskiego 1944** (Press Papers of the Warsaw uprising 1944). Published in 1994 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising, this is a very well illustrated book. It contains many photographs of interest, together with reproductions of the various clandestine

newspapers. Just to look at these reproductions gives a flavour of what they contain, even if one does not (like me) speak any Polish.

Jastrzebski, Marek ; **Materialy do bibliografii drukow zwartych wydanych poza zasiegiem cenzury 13 XII 1981 - 31 XII 1988**. Bibliography of materials published during the period of censorship December 13th 1981 - December 31st 1988. Published in 1994 this is a bibliography which lists some 4,460 separate publications.

Further Reading

Acherson, Neal ; **Struggles for Poland** ; Michael Joseph ; 1987.

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Hanson, Joanna ; **Civilian Population and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944** ; C.U.P. ; 1982.

Klossowski, Andrzej ; **The National Library in Warsaw - Collections and Programmes** ; Biblioteka Narodowa ; Warsaw ; 1991

Lukas, Richard ; **Forgotten Holocaust - The Poles under German Occupation 1939 - 1944** ; University of Kentucky ; Lexington ; 1986. This includes a short account of clandestine publishing in Nazi

- occupied Poland. It also contains an excellent bibliography and list of sources for further information about the Polish resistance movement.

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II. Krakow And Other Ecological Initiatives In Poland

Just to the East of the second city of Poland, Krakow, is an area of some of the worst pollution in the whole of Europe - an area in which the air is so bad that it hurts. Just to go through the area on a bus is to experience an assault upon ones lungs. Ironically Krakow is one of the most beautiful medieval cities in Europe. Indeed, the city is a UNESCO heritage site, and well worth a visit.

For years, during the previous Communist regime, the ecological damage being done was just ignored. Since the country has been opened up to the West, there has been a major grass-roots interest in solving the ecological problems that face the country.

In 1994 I visited Krakow, and some of the grass-roots ecology bodies that operate there. I was very impressed with what I saw. The main centre for

ecological activities in the city is housed near to the medieval cloth market. Slawkowska 12 houses a number of ecological organisations, and has about twenty paid people working in it :

1. The Regional Environmental Educational Centre (EECK) was founded in 1993 and houses a library on ecological matters. The library is used by individuals, groups and schools. It should be noted that materials on the environment are very difficult to obtain in Polish schools and public libraries. The library is funded by voluntary donations and holds circa 2,500 books, 200 periodicals, 2,000 videos and many files upon the various aspects of pollution.

During 1994 the library lent out 1,000 books and 750 videos - mainly to teachers and local environmental groups and organisations. Data collected in the

library is used to produce a periodical that monitors air quality in the region.

2. The Zielone Brygady (Green Brigades), a networking and campaigning body which was founded in 1989, produces a periodical (which also comes out in an English edition).

3. The Krakow Group of the Green Federation has a number of projects which include : the 10% less waste in

Krakow campaign ; The Cycling City project ; and the Green City Project.

Another body worth noting is the Ecological Library Foundation which was set up in 1989.

The Foundations programmes include : an Ecological Library; distribution of books; publishing of books, films, and other activities (including seminars, lectures, etc.).

A Few Words About Akribie

Maria Kuhn-Ludewig

Who We Are

Akribie (which in German means the quality of exactness or accuracy), the Working Group of Critical Librarians, has been meeting since 1988. We work in libraries in West Germany, in all areas of specialisation. We have in common a desire to share experiences and an interest in the problems of our colleagues in other countries, especially since their problems are often not so different from our own.

So far, our curiosity and informality have made by-laws and boards of directors unnecessary. Accordingly, Akribie is not a registered, non - profit organisation, but rather a forum for candid discussion and joint action, with the goal of finding new forms and possibilities for library work. For this purpose the working group is open to everyone.

What We Want

The media - landscape, the inner structure of the library system, and consequently the picture of the profession is changing all the time. There are different approaches to finding a solution to the current situation in the library system. We think that libraries and their employees should reflect social changes, and make these the basis of their work.

We favour democratic internal structures, freedom of group action, and the greatest possible strengthening of individual responsibility. We support the participation of library users in all aspects of substantive decision - making in library work.

What We Do

There are two or three meetings annually for the discussion of general questions and the exchange of library news. These meetings serve the purpose of continuing education, with occasional visits or lectures by invited speakers. The venue, subject, and shape of the meetings are determined by participants.

Akribie has participated in librarian's meetings and congresses, with information stands as well as presentations on topics such as:

- Books and libraries in ghettos and camps (1990)
- Reductions in staff and unemployment in East and West Germany (1992)
- Library development planning from below, library liquidation from above (1993)
- Does the modern presentation of information make for user-friendliness ? (1994)
- The honour of professionalism (1995)

The exchange of information should make it easier to recognise changes in the library field - by means of comparison - and help us to explore possibilities for action (for example, in the case of library planning and development.)

Contact with similar groups, whether in allied professions or in foreign countries, broadens knowledge of otherwise little - known problems and practices. Thus Akribie has contacts with library and information workers in Germany (AKRIBIE, Bielefeld), with colleagues in the U.S.A. (Progressive Librarians Guild, N.Y.), and in Austria (KRIBIBI, Vienna).

Last but not least, for purposes of communication between meetings, there is a newsletter and occasional reports in the magazine LAURENTIUS (Hannover). Each individual is free to decide how much to contribute towards costs.

Where we stand

I am not sure that one can call Akribie a radical organisation. It is a circle of critical library workers (Arbeitskreis Kritischer BibliothekarInnen) which has its roots in the protest movement of 1968, though it started twenty years later. In the past there have been circles of critical people in other fields of great social importance (e.g. critical jurists and critical policemen). So we Librarians are late - but not too late, we hope.

The library profession in Germany has a very strong tradition which comes from Prussian bureaucracy. This is perhaps more evident today among the university and the national libraries than among the younger public libraries. Like David against Goliath, Akribie aims to fight against this tradition and its implications because it has prevented democratic development both inside and outside German libraries.

Although many libraries have staff representatives to take care of the rights of their workers, there is nevertheless a feeling of subordination and even anxiety among our colleagues. If technical progress is to be accompanied by the social modernisation of Librarianship, we have to challenge this authoritarian tradition.

Appearances can be deceptive - a clever new management may seem to act differently to the behaviour of the older boss generation, but this does not mean that it is less obedient to the administrative or political superior. A clever management is sometimes able to follow political instructions more efficiently.

In February 1995 there was a G-7 meeting in Bruxelles concerning the liberalisation of international communication. The subject of the annual meeting of German librarians (Bibliothekartag), which took place in June 1995 at Gottingen, was the challenge which the electronic media pose for libraries, especially the Internet. A coincidence ?

Certainly the new forms of electronic communication will change traditional information work and this process has to be discussed openly. But to say that this is the only subject of concern to librarians is not convincing when many public libraries are in danger of being closed.

Akribie offered something different at Gottingen. One subject we raised was the use of voluntary labour in libraries, which is not popular among trained librarians, but nevertheless exists. In Germany the churches are organising most of this voluntary work, mostly done by women, in little parish libraries. Akribie are not in favour of this paternalistic system, but we accept voluntary work in those libraries which cannot otherwise provide sufficient staff (e.g. in prison and hospital libraries).

Two colleagues from Austria told us about the situation there, where the formation of libraries is not really established. A special issue of the librarian journal LAURENTIUS (Hanover), published in co-operation with Akribie, will document our contributions to discussions at the Gottingen conference.

Another point we raised concerned publishing. After Reunification in 1990 the greatest part of our recent book production was simply destroyed in Eastern Germany. This was not the result of a political command but was more or less executed as an act of wild economic liberalism - to empty the depots and make room for Western literature. All books published in the GDR were deemed worthless.

There was no official attempt to stop this vandalism, but there were several personal initiatives. A West German clergyman, Father Martin Weskott, started to rescue more than half a million GDR books. These books are stored in a huge barn beside the church in the village of Katlenburg, not far from Gottingen. Every Sunday people from all around are invited to buy some of these rare documents. The money is used to fund projects in developing countries. This unusual book collection was the reason that Akribie offered an excursion from the Bibliothekartag to Katlenburg.

Akribie believes that library work is not something confined to library buildings, but that it is a kind of civil activity. For this reason it is necessary to study library history, as well as library development,

in other countries in order to make use of relevant experiences in former times and under different conditions.

Of course, libraries are integrated in the legal framework of our Civil Service. But library work must not be restricted to the uncritical execution of any instruction as was the case in pre-democratic times. Akribie demands that readers - not just academics - and library workers should be able to participate in the planning of our future library service.

If you want to find out more about Akribie contact :

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Kribibi

Kribibi is a group of critical librarians, mainly from the public library sector, but we include some scientific librarians as well. We meet twice a year to discuss issues of concern to our profession. At the moment we are attracting Social Democrats, Socialists and people on the Left who are not connected to a political party (E.g. progressive Catholics) to our workshops.

We have debated the following subjects : developing a new professional image to reflect advances in the use of electronic media ; library marketing ; problems caused by the lack of an Austrian library law ; the development of strategies and tactics to push for such a law.

We are also discussing ideas about progressive library work and how this can be connected to information and social change. During the last two years we have been occupied with efforts to establish a college for public librarians and the development of an appropriate constitution.

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Zines in Libraries

Billie Aul

Whether you know it or not, the publication you are currently reading is a zine. "Zine," shortened from "fanzine," is the current term for publications published outside the conventional channels. These publications address issues of less-than-mainstream interest and provide a creative outlet for people whose tastes differ from those of the general population.

Zines have been around in one form or another since the beginning of the printing press, though the amount of interest they generate tends to go in waves. The latest wave of zines starts with the punk rock movement and was accelerated by the publication of Factsheet Five, the zine of zines.

Factsheet Five was started in 1982 by Mike Gunderloy, a science fiction enthusiast who was also interested in anti-authoritarian politics. He sent out a one page mimeographed newsletter to his friends in an attempt to cross-pollinate their interests. He reviewed zines on both topics for his friends hoping that they would become interested enough to get the zines themselves. That way his science fiction friends could learn more about the anti-authoritarian movement and vice-versa.

His friends liked it. They asked for more and started sending him other zines to review. He kept it up. By 1992 he was publishing a 100-page bimonthly magazine with a glossy cover and a copy count of almost 10,000. There were many factors in the success of Factsheet Five. It appeared at the time when the punk music movement was getting too large to be kept track of by word of mouth. Factsheet Five became the place where punk rockers turned to find zines. Mike's anti-authoritarianism led him to take a descriptive rather than prescriptive approach to reviewing. In addition he was a prolific, non-judgmental and encouraging correspondent; he made you want to start your own zine. These qualities made people who were doing zines of all types comfortable sending him material. In 1992 he decided to move on to other interests in his life and sold the magazine to another publisher. He also decided it was time to find a home for the 300 boxes of zines he had kept as part of his zine archive, which is where the New York State Library comes in.

The New York State Library, where I work, is a large research library founded in the 19th century by the state government as a library to serve both the needs of the government and to be a resource for the people of the state. One of our major missions has become documenting New York State history, which, because of the state's prominence in the cultural and economic affairs of the United States, gives us a

broad mandate in terms of collecting culture material. That mandate and the proximity of the collection (Mike lived about ten miles from our building) made the collection very attractive to us.

While the research value of the collection is unquestionable, the collection is not without its problems. At a little over 300 cubic feet it is one of the larger collections in our repository, making it difficult to store and difficult to process in our work area. Also, the bulk of the collection is zine issues. There are somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 zine titles in the collection, most having only one or two issues each. No library could hope to fully catalogue that many serials. Instead we are adding only a brief record to our on-line catalogue consisting of basic title, holdings and broad subject areas. These records can be prepared by volunteers without professional library credentials. The records are checked by a professional late in the process. Even this minimal processing is scheduled to take between 15 and 20 years. Although Mike had attempted to keep the archives in some kind of order, he was unable to keep up with the work load. There are about 150 cubic feet of zines that are in no order at all. We started the processing with these materials, as the ones that Mike had organized are accessible by title.

So what does this mean to those of you not likely to get to the United States to use this collection. It means that you can do this kind of thing in your library too. Not everyone has a Mike Gunderloy sitting in their backyard, but everyone has zines in their community. If you want to be sure that alternate information is available in your library, the first thing you need to do is ferret out where it is in the community. Find out who publishes it, who's likely to collect it, and where it's distributed.

Next make a plan for how your library can best deal with it. Should it be a special collection, in the vertical file, or left out on the freebie table? Are you going to catalogue it? Should it receive complete cataloguing or just a short entry? Draw up a collection development plan. Try to make it a policy that does not call for aesthetic judgements to be brought into play. For instance, you might try to collect all zines published in your city. If someone complains about the contents of one zine, you can simply say that you collect all zines published in the city regardless of content. Another approach is to get collectors to donate their collections. That way you can defend any particular title on the basis of its being part of the whole collection. Cultivating the collectors also means that the zines themselves will usually come to you free of charge, allowing you to spend resources on cataloguing and preservation.

The New York State Library has found its zine collection to be very rewarding, drawing the attention of an interesting and diverse group of researchers. We expect the collection's research value to increase with age. Every library can have some part in making alternative information available to their clientele. It's just a matter of knowing what's realistic for your institution and planning accordingly.

Easy listening for the hard of hearing

Ian Trowell

While it appears that the concerns of 'progressive librarians' or those fighting for 'social change' are based around the related concepts of provision of an alternative voice on our shelves and databases, and the provision of any sort of voice in areas that are recognised as emerging (democratic) struggles, I want to discuss wider aspects of the library as part of the praxis of a struggle and a vision. In our predecessors' words: 'to dare to dream.'

In a previous work¹ I have sketched out notes for what could be called the 'content' of a library and I think it important to re-emphasise the thrust of those arguments before examining the 'form' of the library and its part in a possible praxis.

Our world is shaped by capitalism and its relentless pursuit of profit. The nature of capitalism implies an exploited working class. However, you don't have to be poverty-stricken or desperate for work to see the effects of capitalism. Whilst we can see the obvious effects of this on the degradation of our physical environment, it is also evident in our mental environment. Alienation and individualization become accepted modes of living as social existence becomes carved into smaller and smaller chunks - control, surveillance, management and profit are what is extracted. The 'information society' is thus a capitalist concept.

In terms of the workplace it arose through Taylorization, dispersed Fordism, subcontracting and whole new areas of the finance industry (such as information broking)². In terms of the social sphere it arose through the media, the development of 'lifestyleism' and the relentless barrage of advertising culture. Concurrent with this 'qualitative' shift in capitalism are the tools and technologies to facilitate this - the capture, manipulation, presentation and communication of information. Despite the theoretical gulf between this 'information spectacle' and the function of the local library as a tool for struggle, there is no doubt that library and information workers should be dialoguing in this area.

We are witnessing the penetration of this information spectacle into the cultural terrain. This began with the construction of fictional characters such as 'Case' in William Gibson's cyber-trilogy, which set up the stereotype of the swashbuckling Indian Jones figure hacking and slashing its way through the corporate information jungle. The maverick nature of this characterisation has become the basis for the appeal of the Internet and WWW culture. This has grown by exploiting our alienated and individualized lives to bring us all that is violent, glib and glossy as pioneering in this field.³

At a basic level, revolutionary theory can be broken down into three categories:

1. the *analysis* of current society;
2. the *vision* of a new society;

3. the *strategy* to move from one to the other.

This is not a simple molecular approach. Categories are related according to how they influence each other (otherwise we would not have the 57 varieties of opposition). Whereas there can be unscrupulous visions of the society we would like to live in, much of the difference is based upon the analysis of current society. Similarly, there arise intricate and exact strategies based upon a specific analysis. For instance, industrialist and unionist strategies that imply that we are not able to think consciously about what we produce and how, and about what choices to make for the lives we want. Thus an analysis of current society must take into account the shaping motives (e.g., capitalism in terms of economic-deterministic-marxism) and the effects they have on the proletarian condition (e.g., the lesser-spotted-marx talking about subjective forces such as alienation).

The form of the library could have great relevance in terms of the whole revolutionary process (analysis, vision, strategy). From analysis we may understand that current society involves an intense effort to prevent us from struggling pro-actively (this is the basis of autonomist theory). An important aspect of this is the mystification and specialization of skills and commodities that embody these 'mystified skills.' If we combine this with the increased drive towards commodity fetishism then it is possible to see a deadlock in achieving anything towards a true liberation. The library exists to break down the nature of specialization in terms of the knowledge that is needed to understand and attain relevant skills. It also directly challenges the whole concept of commodity fetishism by providing an alternative to the tunnel vision of consumerism.

I am not talking about a way to relieve the misery of capitalism by requesting a few more libraries or a few more radical books; what I am talking about is the construction of a vision. Here we can see how the elements of the revolutionary process are more inter-related. A tangible and possible vision needs to be presented as part of a strategy and to be relevant to our analysis of society. Thus it should tackle the problems that we see are relevant in the here and now with a revolutionary perspective.

Here's where we can dare to dream. I see the form of the library being crucial to the new society *beyond the basis of educational and communicative uses*. Many of the goods that we desire to own, have no possible hopes of producing or maintaining ourselves and end up saving for years would be better organised in a library.

To begin with, our lives would be enriched by the new social fabric that smashes the stranglehold of individualization. As television vanishes because no-one can be bothered to watch re-runs and no-one can be bothered to make new police dramas, we can have spectacular cinemas in our communities that facilitate feasting and rowdy behaviour (an end to cultural homage!). And so the need for commodities to compensate for the poverty of our social fabric would be thrown aside.

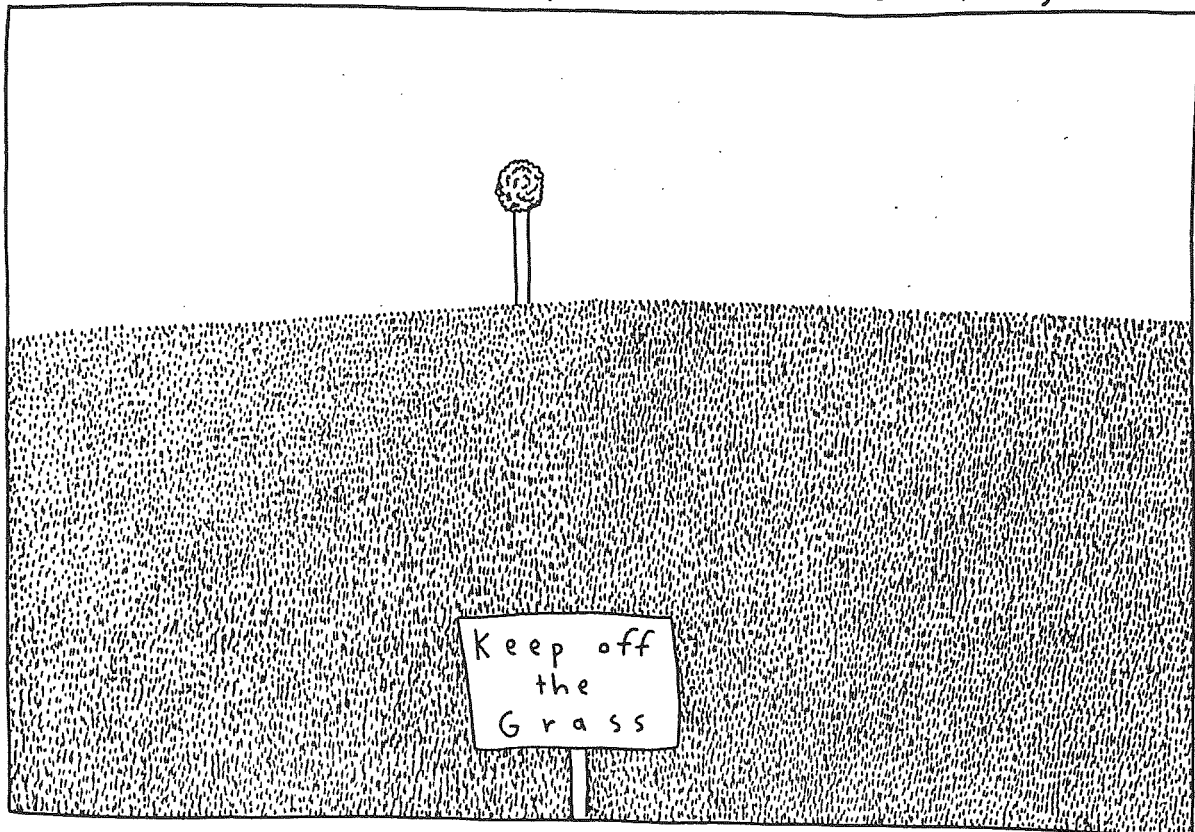
I enjoy rock climbing; In this new society should I still be obliged to own a full set of climbing gear? Commodities such as these can be used communally and a library form is the ideal 'management' system. Libraries could also be used to supply a ready resource of other items: cameras; VCRs; printing machinery; bicycles; tools; sound systems; scuba-diving equipment; hot-air balloons; cots and cradles. There are, however, things that could be implemented now to facilitate this struggle: free shops, other libraries (toy libraries provide one example), skills-sharing (beyond the liberal martyrdom of LETS). These can exist alongside our efforts to fight for an

education that stresses change not compliance, a fight that is central to us as library and information workers.

References

1. 'Information as commodity and strategies for its negation', in *Communist Headache* No. 3. Available from CH, PO Box 446, Sheffield, S1 1NY. Five numbers exist: £5.00 gets the lot.
2. Useful here is Negri's work on the socialized worker. Also recommended are the articles 'Technology and class' and 'The city, social control and the local state', both in *Subversion* No. 17. Available from Dept. 10, 1 Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1HW).

T r e e o f K n o w l e d g e .



Mr. fish

